

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02345 221845Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

S E C R E T USNATO 2345

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, MPOS, TU, GR
SUBJECT: EXERCISE DAWN PATROL: GREEK DEMARCHE

REF: (A) STATE 090638 (DTG220012Z APR 77), (B) STATE
070042 (DTG231817Z MAR 76, NOTAL), (C) USNATO 1627
(DTG 241744Z MAR 76, NOTAL) (D) USDOCOSOUTH (DTG 291416Z MAR
76, NOTAL), (E) USNATO 2271 (DTG 191620Z APR 77) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: REF A REPORTS A GREEK DEMARCHE ON CONTINUING
PROBLEMS WITH NATO EXERCISE DAWN PATROL AND REQUESTS
CONFIRMATION THAT THE EXERCISE WILL PROCEED AS PLANNED.
THERE IS NOTHING EVIDENT AT THIS TIME WHICH WILL PRECLUDE
FULL EXECUTION OF THE EXERCISE AS PLANNED. END SUMMARY.

1. DEMARCHE REPORTED IN REF A IS THE FIRST INDICATION WE
HAVE HEARD AT THIS HEADQUARTERS THAT PROBLEMS REMAIN BETWEEN
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 02345 221845Z

GREECE AND TURKEY OVER EXERCISE DAWN PATROL. NEITHER DELEGATION
HAS RAISED THE TERRITORIAL AIR SPACE ISSUE WITH THE US
MISSION. REFERENCE E REPORTED THAT THE GREEK AUTHOR-
ITIES HAD "ACCEPTED" THE TURKISH OBJECTIONS WHICH WERE
RAISED IN THE MILITARY BUDGET COMMITTEE AND THAT THE
EXERCISE COULD CONTINUE AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. THIS
IS THE EXPLANATION PROVIDED BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION
UPON REMOVAL OF ITS RESERVATION. IT IS APPARENT,
HOWEVER, THAT THE ISSUE OF THE GREEK CLAIM TO A TEN-
MILE TERRITORIAL AIR SPACE IS STILL UNRESOLVED.

DESPITE THIS, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY ADVISED THAT SHAPE DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS CONTROVERSY SHOULD HINDER FULL EXECUTION OF EXERCISE DAWN PATROL AS PRESENTLY PLANNED.

2. THE TERRITORIAL AIR SPACE ISSUE HAS LONG PLAGUED NATO EXERCISES ON THE SOUTHERN FLANK. WE ARE AWARE OF THE NEED TO AVOID APPEARING TO TAKE SIDES OR GET INVOLVED IN THE CONTINUING GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE. PREVIOUS NATO EXERCISES HAVE NOT RECOGNIZED THE GREEK CLAIM TO A TEN-MILE AIR SPACE AROUND GREEK AEGEAN ISLANDS. WHEN WASHINGTON RAISED A SET OF SIMILAR QUESTIONS ON EXERCISE DAWN PATROL IN 1976 (REF B) WE RESPONDED WITH REF C, DRAWING UPON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY USDOCOSOUTH IN REF D. NATO HAS NEVER RECOGNIZED MORE THAN SIX NAUTICAL MILES OF TERRITORIAL WATERS AND AIR SPACE FOR GREEK TERRITORY, INCLUDING ISLANDS. HOWEVER, ON ONE PREVIOUS OCCASION, AN ADDITIONAL FOUR-MILE "BUFFER ZONE" WAS OBSERVED TO AVOID PERMITTING A NATO EXERCISE TO BECOME EMBROILED IN THE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ISSUE. NATO FORCES IN EXERCISE DAWN PATROL WILL OBSERVE THE SIX-MILE LIMIT.

3. IF THIS SUBJECT IS RAISED IN NATO FORA, WE WILL ADHERE TO THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN PARA 3 OF REF A.
PEREZ

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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